

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRAGUE 01270 300920Z

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
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R 300830Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8178

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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STATE FOR CU/ARTS, USIA FOR IEE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, CZ

SUBJECT: GEORGE WEIN VISIT PRAGUE

REF: STATE 113854 AND BUCHAREST 2220

1. NEWPORT JAZZ FESTIVAL NEW YORK PROMOTER GEORGE WEIN CONTACTED EMBASSY DURING PRAGUE VISIT, MAY 22-23, FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRAGOKONCERT RE 1975-76 APPEARANCES BY U.S. JAZZ ARTISTS. EMBASSY WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY TO BRIEF WEIN PRIOR TO PRAGOKONCERT MEETING AND DISCUSS RESULTS FOLLOWING EXCHANGE, BUT RECOMMENDED WEIN PROCEED LOCALLY AS COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE INDEPENDENT OF VISIBLE EMBASSY SUPPORT.

2. TERMS OF ANY ULTIMATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WEIN AND PRAGOKONCERT PARTICULARLY IN 1975 PRIOR TO 1976 PRAGUE JAZZ FESTIVAL, WILL BE TREATED BY PRAGOKONCERT AS COMMERCIAL CONTRACT. WEIN AGREEMENT WITH CU/ARTS WOULD FUNCTION INDEPENDENTLY AND WOULD NOT BE REFLECTED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH CZECHS EXCEPT IN FORM OF REDUCED FEE ACCEPTABLE TO WEIN FOR LOCAL
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PAGE 02 PRAGUE 01270 300920Z

PERFORMANCES BY US ARTISTS.

3. PRAGOKONCERT SOUGHT WEIN AGREEMENT TO US PERFORMANCES BY LOCAL DUO, JAZZ TANDEM. WITH FULL AGREEMENT EMBASSY, WEIN MADE SUCH PERFORMANCES THIS SUMMER CONDITIONAL UPON PRIOR SIGNATURE OF WRITTEN AGREEMENT BRINGING US ARTISTS TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN 1975, REPEAT 1975.

4. ACCORDINT TO WEIN, FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE BY LETTER AND CABLE. WEIN AGREED TO KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED. JAZZ TANDEM APPLIED HERE FOR VISA, MAY 29, AND WAS INFORMED FINAL APPROVAL MUST AWAIT LETTER OF INVITATION FROM WEIN.

5. EMBASSY BELIEVES PRAGOKONCERT MAY WELL SACRIFICE US PERFORMANCES BY JAZZ TANDEM IF LOCAL US CONCERTS CANNOT BE READILY APPROVED PRIOR TO LOCAL 1975 JAZZ FESTIVAL. PRAGOKONCERT WILL PREDICTABLY ATTEMPT TO PLACE JAZZ TANDEM WITHOUT RECEIVING US GROUP. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CU/ARTS SUPPORT IN ANY ROUTINE CONTACTS WITH WEIN AIMED AT DISCOURAGING THAT DEVELOPMENT. EXTREMELY UNLIKELY WEIN COULD PLACE US ARTISTS HERE WITHOUT ACCEPTING JAZZ TANDEM, AND CHANCES NO BETTER THAN 50-50 GIVEN HIS AGREEMENT TO ACCEPT GROUP.

6. WEIN INDICATED HE WOULD HOLD FIRM TO REQUIREMENT FOR RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT, WHICH EMBASSY CONSIDERS BEST POSSIBILITY FOR LARGE SCALE US JAZZ PERFORMANCES IN PRAGUE THIS YEAR. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER PROGRAM OTHER THAN ARMSTRONG MUSIC, GIVEN RECENT LOCAL APPEARANCE BY ARMSTRONG'S WIDOW. WEIN INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS OTHER PROGRAMS WITH PRAGOKONCERT.

7. EMBASSY SHARES BUCHAREST INTEREST IN "75 YEARS OF JAZZ" FILM, PARTICULARLY GIVEN OPPORTUNITY CIRCULATE SAME THROUGH NETWORK OF SMALL CITY JAZZ CLUBS ALREADY USING EMBASSY FILMS. VTR WOULD ALSO SERVE AS EXCELLENT PROMO IN EFFORT SECURE ACCEPTANCE LIVE LOCAL PERFORMANCES.

8. WILL ADVISE.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PRAGUE01270
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750189-0468
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975055/aaaaaebz.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 113854, 75 AND BUCHAREST 2220
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GEORGE WEIN VISIT PRAGUE
TAGS: OEXC, CZ, (WEIN, GEORGE)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006